

Establishing the voluntary sector role in CHPs

Editorial

On 1st April Community Health Partnerships (CHPs) go live. Schemes of Establishment for CHPs lay out their plans for delivering, in partnership with local authorities and the community and voluntary sector, on health improvement, GP services and primary care, support for long-term medical conditions, children's services, mental health improvement and community care under the Joint Future initiative.

Voluntary Health Scotland has identified many examples of promising practice involving the voluntary and community sector within local areas and presented highlights from these at a seminar at SCVO's *The gathering* in Glasgow on 15 February.

We looked in particular for inclusion of members of the voluntary sector and wider community on the CHP Committee, for evidence of equal and creative

partnerships for health improvement, the delivery of community based services to meet ongoing health needs, and provision of community care under the Joint Future agenda. At the same time we were interested in CHPs' proposals for public involvement over the next year (Public Partnership Fora must be in place by April of next year) and importantly, the evidence of new and developing local health compacts.

A short report of the VHS review of promising practice in CHP development will be out soon. Meantime, *Community Health Partnerships: involving the voluntary sector*, written by Bill Weir for VHS, is available on both the VHS website and on the Community Health Partnerships Development Group (CHPDG) website.

Welcome to this March 2005 edition of the Voluntary Health Scotland Briefing, and a happy Easter break to all.

As this Briefing reaches you, Community Health Partnerships across Scotland go live and become the focus for all local healthcare services, as well as health improvement and community care. We cover some of the key issues in this issue.

Meantime, The Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report on the health of people of Scotland indicates that Scotland's health is beginning to improve, although inequalities are still widening and CHPs will have a leading role in addressing these.

The updated VHS website presents these and other topical issues - we welcome feedback on the layout and content.

Futurebuilders Scotland: an introduction

Are you a voluntary organisation interested in taking action to increase your financial sustainability by generating income?

Futurebuilders Scotland is an investment programme managed by Communities Scotland. It invests in community and voluntary organisations that are working to use a business-like approach to deliver public services; achieve the Scottish Executive's national Closing the Opportunity gap objectives and targets; address local service needs and

priorities; and increase their financial sustainability through earned income.

If you want to find out if Futurebuilders Scotland is for you, events are being held in the following locations during April.

Aberdeen 18th, Perth 20th, Inverness 28th and Glasgow 29th.

Please contact Sarah Rae at SCVO for more information or a booking form. Sarah.rae@scvo.org.uk, 0131 556 3882

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Health Improvement in CHPs

Health improvement is one of the three main areas of work for a CHP, the others being planning and service delivery and redesign. Health improvement is a goal, not a field of activity. It is pursued through promoting good health, preventing ill health and maximising the population health impact of treatment and care services. It should be seen as the main goal of health services as a whole and the one single goal which unites the NHS, local authorities, the voluntary sector and other partners.

In May 2004 the Scottish Executive commissioned Skills for Health, the UK-wide Sector Skills Council for the health sector, to develop a programme to help emerging CHPs define and develop their health improvement role.

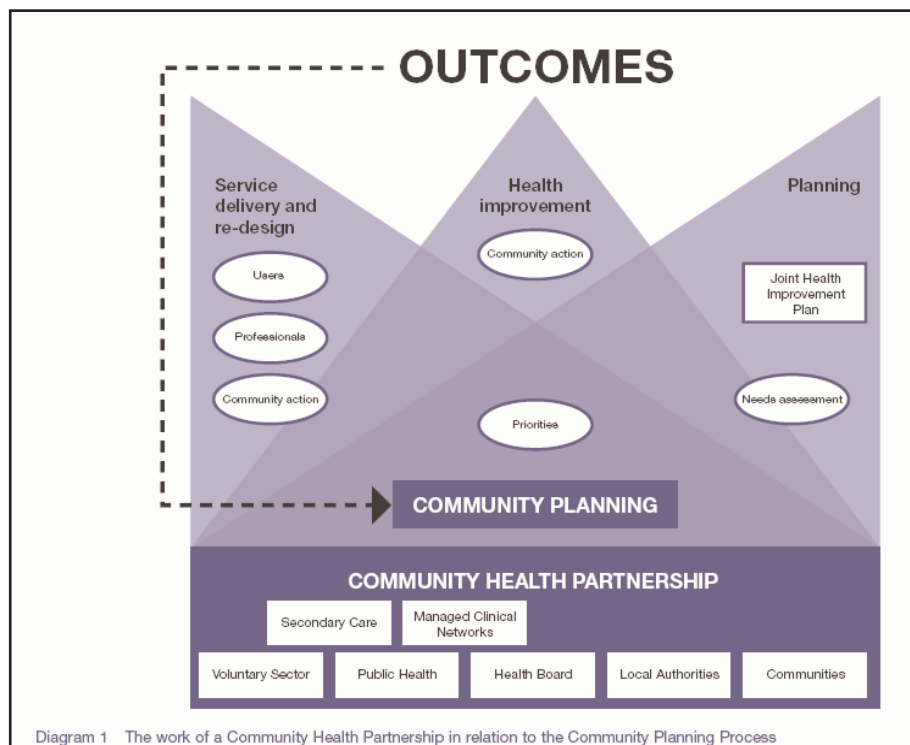
The programme, *Developing the Health Improvement Role of Community Health Partnerships*, is focused on organisational development for an emerging CHP and is designed to help organisations think through how health improvement will become a key feature of their work as Community Health Partnerships. It is aimed at all partners within a CHP, including the voluntary sector, and the more partners who get initially involved in this stage of organisational development, the more "rounded" the CHP will be.

The programme will be quite time intensive, an initial 2-hour meeting, a 24-hour event and then a 3-hour final action planning workshop but some areas will do it differently. The Scottish Executive has funded this

work to the extent of approximately £250,000 so there will be no costs for the participants. It sounds a big commitment but will be the first major piece of organisational development involving all of the partners and it is imperative that the voluntary sector be involved at this early stage. The dates and contact details for those responsible for the organisation of the events should be available soon from the VHS website.

For further details contact either Bill.Weir@vhscotland.org.uk or Helen.Tyrrell@vhscotland.org.uk

As the diagram below shows, CHPs will not only involve directly employed staff and GP practices but will also need to work closely with all of its partners.



Voluntary sector communications in Edinburgh

Voluntary Health Scotland and Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC) are embarking upon an exciting partnership to further develop the infrastructure which will allow the voluntary sector in Edinburgh to become more actively involved in health improvement through community planning and the new CHPs.

There will be opportunities for organisations to access training on what health improvement actually means and how their organisation contributes to the wider picture of health improvement through community planning and CHPs. There will also be a chance to contribute to the development of a communication infrastructure which will allow for the common concerns and issues within the sector to be raised at a strategic level.

Further details will follow so watch this space...

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Update from UKPHA Scotland

UKPHA Scotland, the independent voice of the public health movement, is going from strength to strength. Now with the back-up of part-time Development Officer Jo Swinson, membership of UKPHA Scotland has increased by 27% over the past 6 months.

Forthcoming events are:

Tuesday 19 April
UKPHA Scotland AGM
Stirling Highland Hotel, 4:00pm - 7:00pm

All members are invited to attend the AGM event, which will include brainstorming workshops on the three priority areas for the UKPHA Scotland over the coming year.

Monday 27 June.
Sustainability and Public Health: exploring the links
Cosla Conference Centre, Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh

In advance of the G8 summit at Gleneagles, speakers and case studies will provoke discussion and explore some of the wider links between sustainability and public health. Speakers include Petra Biberbach, Director of fairXchange and Angela Mawle, Chief Executive of UKPHA.

Cost of event is £35 (£25 for UKPHA members).

To register for either event, contact Jo Swinson on 0141 587 7049 or email jo@ukpha.org.uk

The Role of Childcare Partnerships in Scotland

Janet Law, SOSCN National Policy Officer writes:

In the context of the new Community Health Partnerships, existing partnerships have to consider how their own roles may change or develop and ensure that good links are established to avoid duplication.

Since 1998, the development of affordable, accessible quality childcare in Scotland has been driven at local level through Childcare Partnerships, one for each Local Authority area. Much of the growth of childcare out with school hours has happened in the voluntary sector. Out of School Care is typically managed by committees of local volunteer parents who employ paid staff.

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) has supported the development of Out of School Care in Scotland since the early 1990s and encouraged local networks of Out of School Care providers. Representatives of these networks sit on the Childcare Partnerships along with representatives of Childminders, Playgroups and private nurseries and the local authority.

SOSCN holds regular Childcare Strategy Seminars for the staff who work for the Partnerships. The next seminar, to be held in Glasgow on 26th April, will look at emerging structures, including Community Health Partnerships and Local Social Economy Partnerships.

For further information contact Sue Clow at SOSCN: 0141 564 1284, admin@soscn.org

Charity fundraising events

Cancer Research UK

ABSEIL into Scotland's national rugby stadium on **Saturday 7 May 2005** and help kick cancer into touch by raising funds for Cancer Research UK. And this year you can abseil as a family, since there is one for Adults and one for Kids on the same day.

The Adult Abseil, descends 100ft (30m) into the stadium and the Kid's Abseil is 50ft (15m).

For more information about the abseils, to register using your credit/debit card, or if you would like to help in other ways (volunteering on the day or displaying leaflets and posters) call 08701 60 20 40 or email murrayfieldabseil@cancer.org.uk.

You can also register online for the Adult Abseil by visiting www.cancerresearchuk.org/murrayfield

MIND

Beginning on the **18th April** Voluntary Health Scotland's IT Officer, Phil McAndrew and his colleague from London, Nicol Conacher will walk the length of Great Britain in aid of the mental health charity, MIND.

Starting at Dunnet Head, the most northerly point in Scotland they will walk the equivalent of a marathon a day for 33 days, finishing at the Lizard point in Cornwall, the most southerly point in England.

To find out more about MIND, the reasons behind the challenge, join the walk, or make a donation, check www.justgiving.com/north2south or contact Lynsey Conacher at lynseyconacher@hotmail.co.uk.

Involving patients and the public in the Scottish Medicines Consortium

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) was established in 2001, with the aim of providing a single point of advice on the availability of new medicines in Scotland, thereby minimising inequity and variability of access across Scotland. However, whilst SMC advises on all new medicines, it is for individual NHS Boards to recommend which medicines should be used locally, with clinicians taking the final decision on what to prescribe.

SMC comprises pharmacologists, clinicians including GPs, pharmacists, nurses, NHS Board executives, lay members, health economists and representatives from the pharmaceutical industry. All members must register interest in companies whose medicines are under discussion.

Pharmaceutical companies submit information to SMC about licensed medicines they wish to market and

SMC considers the clinical, economic and pharmacological strengths and weaknesses. The Patient and Public Involvement Sub-Group (PAPIG) of SMC ensures that the patient/carer perspective is given due importance. A process has been developed to enable patient interest groups to make submissions to SMC. This is a real opportunity for patient interest groups to make a difference and become partners in decision making - a growing number of strong patient perspectives are already being considered by SMC.

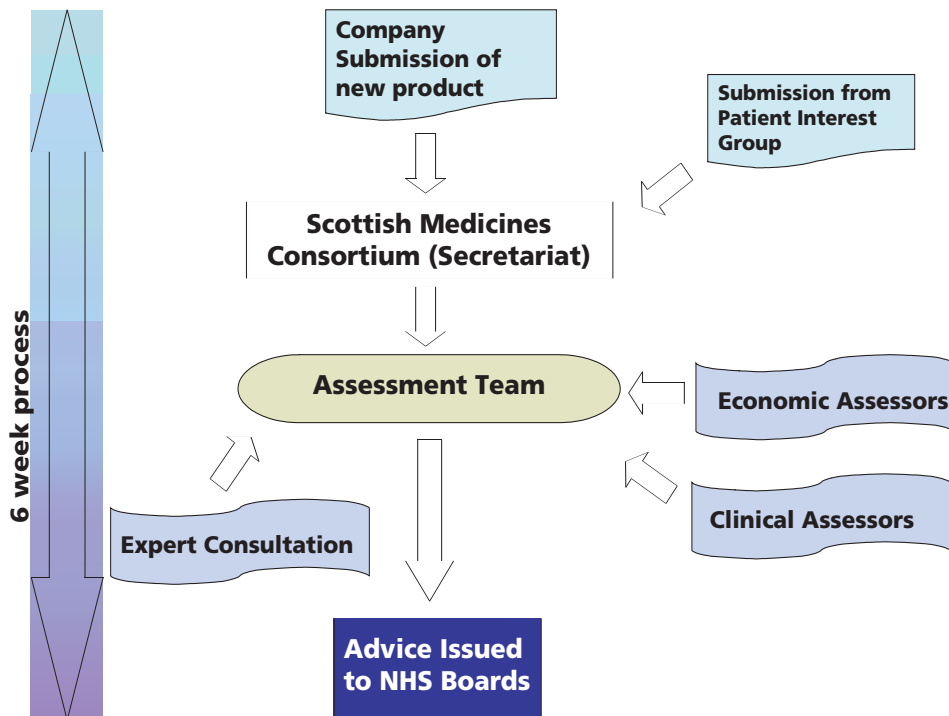
Patient Interest Groups can either visit SMC's website regularly to view the list of new medicines due for assessment or subscribe to an email alert. When a new medicine of interest to a particular group is due for consideration, the group should then contact the SMC secretariat at Delta House, 50 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2NP Tel. 0141 225 6869 or email:

smcsecretariat@nhshealthquality.org to find out the deadline for submission and sources of further information about the new medicine.

A submission template seeks the patient perspective on the potential benefits and impact of the new medicine upon the lives of people with a particular condition. Examples of submissions can be seen on SMC's website: www.scottishmedicines.org.uk.

SMC's decisions are made public via the website after one month, with submitting patient interest groups receiving the detailed advice document (DAD) issued to NHS Boards. To date over 60% of patient interest group submissions have been associated with positive outcomes - the medicine accepted for either general or restricted use in Scotland. SMC wishes to encourage more patient interest group submissions.

Assessment process



Contributions Welcome

Voluntary Health Scotland welcome contributions to our Briefings.

If you wish to include an item please contact Phil McAndrew on 0131 652 5994, or email: phil.mcandrew@vhscotland.org.uk

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Please take time to visit our updated website, your suggestions for further improvements are welcome.

www.vhscotland.org.uk